# City of Fremont Performing Arts Market Center Theater Reuse Centerville Fire Station

FINAL REPORT MAY 2009



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### I. INTRODUCTION

### Background

AMS Planning & Research was engaged by the City of Fremont's Office of Housing & Redevelopment in October 2008 to address several questions related to the potential market for performing arts facilities in the City. Among the questions posed were:

- What is the market demand for a regional performing arts center and/or a local community performing arts venue?
- What venues are currently serving the area?
- What size and type of facilities would be recommended for Fremont?
- What location would be suitable? Proposed locations included:
  - o the Center Theater, on Fremont Boulevard in Centerville;
  - O Downtown Fremont, defined as the area between Fremont Boulevard, Paseo Padre Parkway, Mowry Avenue, and Walnut Avenue; and
  - o Central Park at Stevenson Boulevard and Paseo Padre Parkway.

AMS's analysis of the market for such facilities is contained in Section II of this report.

In the course of our initial research, a business plan for performing arts at the Center Theater was provided by City staff. The plan, conducted by Venue Tech Management Group of San Francisco and dated November 2007, outlined a program and building concept for the adaptive reuse of the Center Theater as a "Center for Investment in the Arts." This concept involves the renovation of the theater for use as a 400 – 450-seat performance space, and the construction of a new building in the rear of the theater of about 10,000 square feet to house rehearsal, office, performer support, and production facilities. In addition to the scope of work described above, AMS was asked to conduct a "peer review" of the plan. Our analysis of the plan is presented in Section III of this report.

Following our analysis of the market for performing arts facilities in Fremont and our review of the concepts put forth for the Center Theater, AMS was asked to consider alternate uses for the Center Theater. Our research eventually focused on a "film & food" or "theater-pub" concept as one which may be viable in the Center Theater and would meet the goals of the City for the Centerville neighborhood. Descriptions of the



film & food concept and projections related to building and operations are contained in Section III of this report.

Finally, AMS was asked to consider the former Fremont Fire Station #6, also known as the Centerville Fire Station, located across Fremont Boulevard from the Center Theater. We analyzed the fire station's current condition and determined what the building would require in order for it to be reused for a range of activities. The fire station analysis is presented in Section IV of this study.

Recommended next steps for the performing arts in Fremont, for the reuse of the Center Theater, and for the Centerville Fire Station appear in Section V of this report.



Figure 1: Centerville





Figure 2: Center Theater

### Research Summary

In the course of this analysis, AMS undertook extensive research, all of which contributed to our overall knowledge of Fremont. Our research tasks and methodologies are described briefly below.

### **Interviews**

AMS interviewed more than fifty individuals in Fremont, the Bay Area, and nationally. Those interviewed included: Fremont residents, Fremont's elected leaders and staff, representatives of the arts community in Fremont, leaders of the South Asian, Afghani, Chinese, and Latino communities, and operators in the film exhibition and film & food industries. The context, perspectives, and information gained through these interviews were critical to all aspects of our study and conclusions.

### Market Assessment

AMS conducted a market assessment for a primary market and trade area for the performing arts in Fremont, including demographics, market segmentation, and market potential analysis. Details on the methodology of this assessment and the results are included in Section II.

## **Competitive Analysis**

AMS collected use and attendance data from twelve performing arts venues around the Bay Area that may be viewed as competitors. The conclusions from this analysis are presented in the Competitive Analysis portion of Section II of this report.



# **User Survey**

AMS prepared and administered a survey of possible users of a potential performing arts facility in Fremont. Using lists of organizations gained from the Fremont Cultural Arts Council and the Alameda County Arts Commission, as well as our own research, 24 organizations with potential interest in a performing arts center were identified and invited to participate in the survey. Survey respondents were contacted by email and mail, and in some cases were personally interviewed. Eight responses were received, five of which indicated interest in potential use of performing arts facilities. The results of this survey are discussed in the Use Analysis portion of Section II of this report, while the relationship between the survey and the need for a performing arts facility is discussed in the Needs Assessment portion of Section II.



### II. PERFORMING ARTS MARKET STUDY

As described earlier, a primary goal of our work in Fremont involved the market for either a regional or local performing arts center, or both (please see "Regional versus Local Performing Arts Center" later in this section). As such, AMS embarked upon a comprehensive market assessment to determine the suitability of the market for such a venture.

### Market Assessment

AMS prepared an assessment of the market for the performing arts in Fremont and two associated market areas, described below. Data were provided by Nielsen Claritas, the nation's foremost market data provider.

### **Market Areas**

AMS initiated the Market Assessment by selecting geographic areas for analysis. The "primary market," in which approximately 80 percent of a performing arts facility's patrons may be expected to live, was determined to be the cities of Fremont, Union City, and Newark. This selection was based on geography, travel time, transportation, and historical patterns of use and affiliation. The larger "trade area," in which the majority of the balance of a facility's users live, is typically defined as a 20-30 mile radius or 30-minute drive-time from a venue. In Fremont, interviews confirmed this basic evaluation, and we further refined the trade area as the corridor between San Francisco Bay and the East Bay hills, defined on the north by Interstate 238 in Hayward and on the south by State Route 237 in Milpitas. This area is approximately 22 miles from end to end (See Figure 3). In Figure 3, the primary market is depicted in green. The trade area is represented by the primary market plus areas marked in blue.

The market area for a locally-serving performing arts venue (fewer than 1,000 seats) in Fremont would approximately correspond to the primary market as defined above, while the market area for a regional performing arts center would approximately correspond to the trade area.



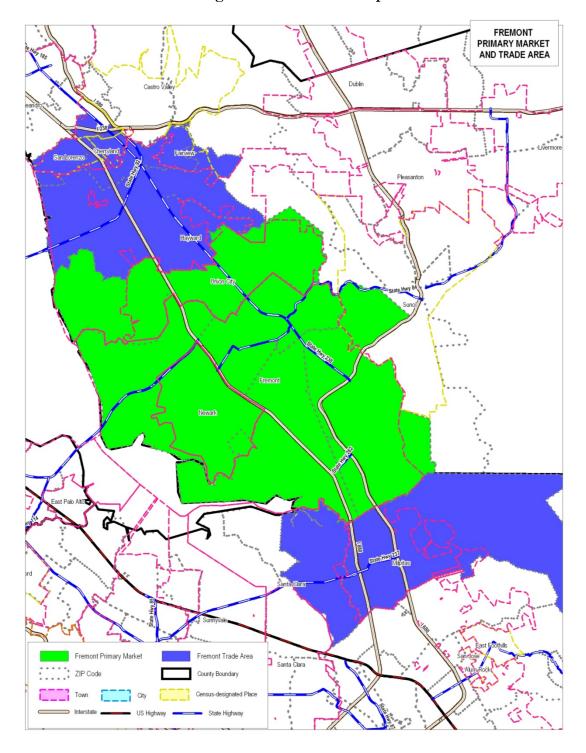


Figure 3: Market Area Map



# **Demographics**

When analyzing demographic data as it pertains to performing and visual arts, three statistics are generally regarded as key: population, income, and education. In Fremont, all three are very positive indicators for the performing arts. Please see Figure 4 for a detailed table of demographic data.

The population of the City of Fremont is estimated to be 211,662<sup>1</sup> in the spring of 2009. The primary market population is estimated at 325,737 and the total trade area population at 605,148. High population figures such as these do not necessarily predict use of or attendance at a performing arts venue, but when viewed in conjunction with other demographics and consumer data, and with market opportunity (discussed in Competitive Analysis, below), it suggests a positive outlook.

High educational attainment, measured in percentage of adults over age 25 with at least a bachelor's degree, is a useful predictor of the likelihood of residents to participate in the arts. The City of Fremont's educational attainment is 43.2 percent, while figures for both the United States and California are around 25 percent. Figures for the primary market and trade area are also high, though lower than those in Fremont, at 37.9 percent and 31.8 percent, respectively.

While educational attainment is a predictor of likelihood of arts attendance, household income is useful in analyzing the possible frequency of attendance. Again, indicators for Fremont and the associated market areas are strong. Median household income for Fremont is estimated at \$93,420 – over 40 percent higher than for the nation, and over 30 percent higher than statewide. The primary market is only slightly lower at \$91,265, with the trade area at \$80,936. Along with indications of a highly-educated population, the high median household income in Fremont and the associated market areas is a very positive indicator for performing arts attendance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Per Fremont city website.



Figure 4: Market Area Key Demographics

Variable	Fremont	Primary Market	Trade Area
2009 Estimated Population	211,662	325,737	605,148
2000 Population	203,413	312,815	581,885
Median Age	36.7	36.4	36.0
% Generation Y (5-17 yrs)	19.2%	19.8%	19.7%
% Generation X (18-34 yrs)	29.9%	29.6%	30.2%
% Baby Boomers (35-59 yrs)	26.6%	26.3%	25.3%
% Mature (60+ Yrs)	9.6%	9.6%	9.9%
Median Household Income	\$93,420	\$91,265	\$80,936
% over \$75,000	53.3%	53.2%	46.1%
% with College Degree	43.2%	37.9%	31.8%
Households with Children	43.4%	45.2%	43.6%
% Black	2.8%	3.5%	5.9%
% Asian	47.1%	45.4%	39.5%
% Hispanic (all races)	14.0%	18.6%	24.5%



# **Market Segmentation**

In order to better understand the characteristics of the performing arts market in Fremont, AMS analyzed consumer data for the area. Our analysis utilizes PrizmNE, a market segmentation system from Claritas which encompasses a variety of information about consumer markets, including travel, eating out, shopping, auto purchases, leisure pursuits, and more. The system categorizes the households in a given area into market segments by their consumption history and patterns, which include arts participation and attendance.

In Fremont and the associated market areas, two segments are dominant: "Bohemian Mix," comprising almost 28 percent of households in the City of Fremont, the primary market and the trade area; and "American Dreams," comprising an average of 24 percent of the households in the City, primary market, and trade area.

The Bohemian Mix market segment is characterized by mid-level to high income and high educational attainment, a high degree of ethnic diversity, white-collar and professional jobs, and a relatively youthful demographic. The lifestyle of this segment is urban, curious, and lively.

The American Dreams market segment is of mid-level educational attainment and income, somewhat older than Bohemian Mix, and is also highly diverse. The lifestyle is less urban, with white-collar and service-sector jobs, and is heavily multilingual.

While neither "Bohemian Mix" nor "American Dreams" are among the market segments most closely associated with arts participation, their presence remains a positive one for the performing arts market in Fremont, given their high education and affluence, and dynamic, curious, urban lifestyles.



# Market Potential Indices (MPIs)

A final component of the market analysis is Market Potential Indices, or MPIs. These measures evaluate the market potential or propensity of residents of the market areas to participate in a range of arts activities. The indices do not measure actual attendance or consumption, simply the likelihood of taking part in various activities. "Average" propensity or interest in a particular activity is indexed at 100 – thus, scoring 200 for a particular activity would indicate that the market there is twice as likely to participate, for example. Scoring 50 would mean it is 50 percent less likely to participate.

Fremont and its associated market areas show very strong MPIs for the arts, as shown in Figure 5. At 206, residents of the City of Fremont are more than twice as likely to belong to an arts association, and at 175, they are 75 percent more likely to attend live theater. Similar numbers prevail for all activities in Fremont, the primary market, and the trade area.

**Primary** Fremont Trade Area **Lifestyle Attribute** Market 206 203 188 Belong to an Arts Association **Buy Classical Music** 187 182 167 Go to Live Theater 175 172 160 Go to Museum 168 164 152 Go to Music/Dance Performance 150 147 139 Go to Rock/Pop Concert 168 164 153 126 Make Charitable Contribution 125 118 Interested in the Arts 139 138 132

Figure 5: Market Potential Indices

### Fremont's Ethnic Market

In the course of our studies, AMS spoke to many individuals in an effort to understand the tremendous ethnic diversity of Fremont and how that diversity may impact the market for the performing arts. Our general conclusions follow:

 Individuals from various ethnic communities interviewed, including South Asian, Afghani, Chinese, and Latino, characterize their communities as diverse in opinions and taste; in addition, there are multiple differences within ethnic communities on matters including language, religion, politics, and cuisine.



- Attendance at mainstream (i.e., not ethnic-specific) arts and cultural activities
  can be correlated to a number of factors, including higher education or
  income, younger age, and a longer period of time living in the United States.
  Evidence suggests that members of ethnic communities who are older, firstgeneration immigrants, or have lower educational attainment or affluence are
  more likely to be interested in ethnic-specific arts, cinema, television, etc.
- Although younger members of ethnic communities are more likely to be interested in mainstream culture than their elders, connection with home countries is more deeply maintained in the 21st century than at earlier moments in America's immigration history. This phenomenon is explained by the relative ease and affordability of international travel and communication. A sustained interest in the arts and culture of home countries could be one result.
- Potential for "cross-over" appeal of arts and cultural programs between ethnic communities was described by interviewees as somewhat limited. On the other hand, anecdotal evidence suggests that there is interest among the White non-Hispanic population in attending multi-cultural events. The performing arts, particularly dance and music, were described as having slightly more cross-over appeal, given the general absence of a language barrier for these forms. To a certain degree, there appears to be an appetite for mainstream American culture across ethnic lines.

# Regional versus Local Performing Arts Center

To understand the need for a performing arts center in Fremont, it is necessary to distinguish between regionally-serving and locally-serving venues, as their markets and programmatic scope differ, as well as their size and cost.

As discussed earlier in this report, local venues essentially serve the primary market, or approximately a 10 to 15-mile radius. Their seating capacity may range from 300 to 700 seats, but commonly averages around 500 seats. Their stages and support spaces accommodate programs of relatively modest size – local organizations, community events, small-scale touring productions – in a range of artistic forms, but typically not the largest symphonies, operas, ballets, or theater productions. Examples of such venues in the Bay Area include the Smith Center for Performing Arts at Ohlone College, Fairfield Center for Creative Arts, the Lucie Stern Theatre, and the under-construction Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton.

A regional performing arts center serves a larger trade area, typically a 20- to 30-mile radius, and possibly beyond, for niche programs. Such venues have seating capacities of 1,000 seats and up, although occasionally as low as 800-900 seats. They can accommodate large scale productions of many art forms and can accommodate major,



world-class artists and companies. Examples in the Bay Area include Zellerbach Auditorium at UC Berkeley, the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, and the Flint Center in Cupertino. Livermore's proposed regional performing arts center would also fit into this category.

# Competitive Analysis

AMS collected data on 24 venues, both regional and local, that may be considered "competitors" to a prospective venue in Fremont by virtue of the size and programmatic scope. We interviewed representatives of 12 of the 24 venues.

These venues represent capacities ranging from 400 to over 3,000 seats. Excluded from the sample were venues which are home to a producing organization such as Davies Symphony Hall, the War Memorial Opera House, Berkeley Repertory Theatre and American Conservatory Theatre. Commercial venues such as the Warfield Theatre, and San Francisco's Broadway-style theaters were also excluded from the analysis. All of the venues reviewed are open to the public in some way – for rentals, or for public programs, or both. Performing arts theaters that are primarily for private use, such as school auditoriums, were excluded from the analysis. Please see Figure 6 and Figure 7 for a list of those venues surveyed.

Figure 6: Regional Performing Arts Centers Surveyed

Venue Name	Seat Count	Location
Berkeley Community Theatre	3,500	Berkeley
Paramount Theatre	3,040	Oakland
San Jose Center for the Performing Arts	2,665	San Jose
Flint Center for the Performing Arts	2,427	Cupertino
Zellerbach Auditorium	2,014	Berkeley
Marin Center	2,000	San Rafael
San Mateo Performing Arts Center	1,600	San Mateo
Fox Theatre	1,464	Redwood City
Chabot College Performing Arts Center	1,432	Hayward
California Theatre	1,170	San Jose
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre	962	San Francisco
Herbst Theatre	916	San Francisco



Figure 7: Local Performing Arts Centers Surveyed

Venue Name	Seat Count	Location
Lesher Center for the Arts	785	Walnut Creek
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts	757	San Francisco
El Campanil Theatre	700	Antioch
Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center	600	San Ramon
Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts	600	Mountain View
Amador Theatre	591	Pleasanton
Montgomery Theater	536	San Jose
Mexican Heritage Plaza Theater	535	San Jose
Bankhead Theatre	500	Livermore
Empress Theatre	466	Vallejo
Lucie Stern Theatre	428	Palo Alto
Smith Center for the Performing Arts	405	Fremont

Figures collected from responding venues suggest that while there is a range of attendance and use, many venues are often only half-full, and are utilized below their potential. In addition, sizeable subsidies are typically required to compensate for operating losses at larger venues.

The average attendance at those venues which reported ticket sales was 48 percent, and ranged from a high of 76 percent capacity, to 16 percent. The number of days per year the venues were utilized ranged from 27 to over 300, averaging 177. Figures such as these suggest that most venues average an event every two days – a not unreasonable frequency, given the demands of "loading-in" and tearing down shows. But the busiest venues demonstrate that use rates well above the average, of 200 or over 300 events per year, are achievable. The moderate figures of even the busiest venues suggest that many performing arts centers around the Bay Area, like their national counterparts, suffer from the interrelated problems of underinvestment in programming and marketing, underpaid and inexperienced management, and deteriorated facilities.





Figure 8: Regional Performing Arts Centers Service Areas

While the current state of venues such as these in the Bay Area is not encouraging, positive signs for Fremont may be seen in the relative "gap" that exists between the major existing performing arts centers congregated in at the north and south ends of Fremont's trade area. Figure 8 illustrates this situation, depicting the four significant competitors to a Fremont regional performing arts center (UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Auditorium, downtown Oakland's Paramount Theatre, the Flint Center in Cupertino, and the San Jose Performing Arts Center), and 20-mile radii that constitute their approximate trade areas. Fremont is located on the edge of the market areas of several centers, and could potentially capitalize upon this "gap." The most important consideration for the City would be the need to adequately capitalize a performing arts project, not only to create a "state of the art" venue but to adequately fund ongoing operations.

When considering the competitive "gap" for a local performing arts center, an even starker picture emerges. As illustrated in Figure 9, only Ohlone College's Smith Center lies within the 10-mile market area that is typical for a locally-serving venue. The Smith Center is technically adequate, and of an appropriate size for many of Fremont's performing arts organizations.

However, many user groups report difficulties in securing performance dates on the Smith Center's busy calendar (most use is by Ohlone College programs). Interviewees also reported that many audience members find the Smith Center's campus location, parking situation, and hilly terrain problematic.





Figure 9: Local Performing Arts Center Service Area

# Use Analysis

In order to project use by the Fremont arts community of a performing arts venue, AMS surveyed organizations from throughout the projected trade area, collecting data on number of days per year each organization might use a facility, what size they would be interested in, and where they would like it to be located. We collected a list of 24 organizations from area arts councils and from our own research, and surveyed them via mail, email, and personal interviews (see Appendix B for the list of organizations contacted). Follow-up calls were made to many organizations.

Figure 10: Projected Use

Organization	Minimum Venue Size	Optimum Venue Size	Maximum Venue Size	Projected Annual Performance Use (Low)	Projected Annual Performance Use (High)
Chinese Artist Network	100	200	500	1	2
Jensen Performing Arts	300	800	1000	5	8
Music Teachers Association	100		500	2	4
Stage 1 Theatre	150	250	500	24	40
Star Struck Theatre	250	400-500	600	10	22



Of the eight organizations that responded to the survey, five indicated interest in a performance venue. Please see Figure 10 for details on the responding organizations. In addition to those organizations listed in Figure 10, we interviewed the Fremont Symphony and Opera, and the Fremont Cultural Arts Council. The Symphony and Opera currently perform at Ohlone College's Smith Center, which they report is technically well-suited to their needs. However, interest was expressed in a venue with larger seating capacity.

Organizations were also surveyed as to their preference for the location of a new performance venue, and as to what criteria were most important to them in the development of a new venue. Details on the results of these questions appear in Figure 11 and Figure 12.

Site Criteria Respondents ranked the criteria on a scale of 1 (most important) to 7 (least important) Nearby Organization Proximity to Availability Aesthetics / Technical **Amenities** Freeway Cost of Use Transit of Parking (shopping, Access Ambiance **Capabilities** dining) Chinese Artist Network 1 2 3 5 6 4 Jensen Performing Arts 1 4 Music Teachers Association 1 4 6 2 Stage 1 Theatre 1 6 4 Star Struck Theatre 2 4 Average Score

Figure 11: Site Criteria

Figure 12: Location Preferences

	Location Preferences  Respondents indicated their top 3 preferences, where 1 was favorite.					
Organization	Central Park	Downtown Fremont (Mowry & Fremont Blvd)	Mission San Jose	Irvington	Niles	Centerville
Chinese Artist Network	1		3	2		
Jensen Performing Arts*		•	•	•		
Music Teachers Association	1		2	3		
Stage 1 Theatre	2	1		3		
Star Struck Theatre	1	2	3			
Average Score	1	2	3	3		

<sup>\*</sup>no order specified

# Performing Arts Center Building Programs

AMS has prepared sample "order of magnitude" building programs for regional and local performing arts centers that would meet the stated needs of potential users and of appropriate seating capacity for the market.



### **Regional Performing Arts Center**

Please see Figure 13 for a sample building program for a 2,000-seat proscenium (picture-frame) stage regional performing arts center. Such a center could be expected to include full theatrical technical capabilities, including fly loft, orchestra pit, orchestra shell; backstage loading and preparatory space; performer support spaces including multiple dressing rooms, toilets, showers, and green room; "front of house" public-service spaces including lobby, concessions, box office, and restrooms; and administrative offices. The estimated net square feet has been increased or "grossed up" by a factor of 1.5 to account for necessary but non-programmed building components such as circulation, wall thickness, utility spaces, and others. The resulting figure is the total, or gross, square footage of the facility.

**Space Category Square Feet** Auditorium & Stage 31,000 Public Areas 19,000 Backstage Support 5,000 Administration 2,000 57,000 Subtotal (Net) Grossing Factor (1.5) 28,500 Total (Gross) 85,500

Figure 13: Regional Performing Arts Space Program

At an estimated project cost of \$1,000 per square foot, a typical benchmark cost for a project of this kind, the facility described would cost approximately \$85.5 million (2009 dollars) excluding land costs and parking.

### **Local Performing Arts Center**

Please see Figure 14 for a sample building program for a 500-seat locally-serving performing arts center. Such a center could be expected to include many, but not all, theatrical capabilities, such as lighting, sound, and fly gallery; performer support spaces, including a rehearsal space for local organizations; patron accommodations; and administrative offices. The program for a local performing arts center has been grossed up by a factor of 1.4, in recognition of the facility's smaller size and reduced complexity.



Figure 14: Local Performing Arts Center Program

Space Category	Square Feet
Auditorium & Stage	9,000
Public Areas	5,300
Backstage Support	5,000
Administration	1,000
Subtotal (Net)	20,300
Grossing Factor (1.4)	8,120
Total (Gross)	28,420

At an estimated project cost of \$650 per square foot, a typical benchmark cost for a facility of this kind, the facility described would cost approximately \$18.5 million (2009 dollars), excluding land costs and parking.

### Needs Assessment

Blending our market assessment, competitive analysis of regional and local performing arts centers, and user analysis leads us to an assessment of the need for a regional or local performing arts center in Fremont.

# **Regional Performing Arts Center**

AMS finds that the need for a regional performing arts center in Fremont is not high at this time, despite favorable market conditions and the existence of a market "gap." A certain degree of community support is present, but fundraising capacity, community leadership, and demand by user organizations is not high. The approximately \$80 to \$100 million investment, plus an operating subsidy of \$1 million or more per year, may be difficult to justify under these conditions.

### **Local Performing Arts Center**

The indicated need for a locally-serving performing arts center in Fremont is somewhat more positive than for a regional center. A local facility would benefit from the same favorable market characteristics as a regional center, and a similar market "gap" exists. Fremont lacks a locally-serving performing arts facility; the Smith Center at Ohlone College has limited availability and is not well located.

However, Fremont's arts community, which would comprise the core users of such a facility, is not robust, and has been challenged over the past decade to enlist strong leadership and increase fundraising capacity. With a maximum of only 76 use-days



projected by the organizations responding to our organizational survey (see Figure 10), and assuming that additional organizations step forward to utilize the facility, a local performing arts center will likely be dark many nights of the year. While the cost to develop a local performing arts center will be significantly lower than for a regional performing arts center, \$15 to \$20 million will still be required, plus an operating subsidy of \$500,000 per year or more, based on experience elsewhere.

# Performing Arts Center Sites

Three potential sites for a performing arts facility were identified by City staff and have been evaluated. A set of common criteria, including Image, Proximity, Transportation & Parking, Capacity, Cost, Visibility, Context, and Expediency have been applied.

### **Downtown Fremont**

Downtown Fremont, defined for the purposes of this study as the area bounded by Mowry and Walnut Avenues, Paseo Padre Parkway, and Fremont Boulevard, is an area currently occupied by a mix of single-family homes, office buildings (including Fremont City Hall and other municipal offices), commercial development, and several large atgrade parking lots. The area also includes various undeveloped or under-developed parcels, most notably located between Liberty and California Streets, and Walnut and Beacon Avenues.

Shopping and dining abound in the immediate vicinity and downtown is home to Fremont's only cinema, the Naz 8. However, the area is not an attractive, pedestrian-oriented district, and is filled with generally undistinguished architecture. The City is exploring partnerships to enhance the appeal of the area and create a higher-density, more attractive downtown core. Transportation to and within the area is easy and uncomplicated, but it is not close to major freeways. However, given the area's central location, and proximity to the Fremont BART station, access for transit riders and pedestrians would not be problematic. At approximately six acres in size, the largest vacant parcel in the area would be adequate to accommodate a performing arts center, assuming structured or shared parking. Other sites may be possible, though it may be necessary to raze existing buildings or re-route some interior streets.

This area offers tracts of vacant land, and proximity to Fremont's business and governmental core. These facts make it an expedient, and relatively lower cost option, site for a performing arts center. The Downtown Fremont site was the second-most highly favored by respondents to our organizational survey (see Figure 12).

### Central Park

A Central Park site, defined for this study as the corner of Stevenson Boulevard and Paseo Padre Parkway, has been the subject of much planning energy related to civic



facilities, including a plan for a regional performing arts center 1993. Like the Downtown Fremont site(s), large arrays of undeveloped land and open space exist, although as a part of Fremont's beloved Central Park, use as a site for a performing arts center may be contested by some members of the community. However, a Central Park site was the most-popular location for a performing arts center among respondents to our organizational survey (see Figure 12).

Central Park lacks amenities like shopping and dining, but the image of the area is positive and one to which Fremont residents respond well. The Pavilion and recreational facilities at the Park are well known and used. Transportation access to the area is relatively uncomplicated, although the distance from freeways and BART is greater at Central Park than the other sites considered. The site is adequate to contain a performing arts center and there is some existing parking available. Seismic issues have been problematic at the Central Park site in previous planning efforts, and would need to be carefully analyzed before proceeding with a performing arts center there.

Overall, the area offers a more positive "feel" and a more appealing physical location than almost anywhere else in Fremont, but seismic concerns and the conversion of parkland for development may prevent serious consideration of this location.

### Centerville

None of the respondents to our organizational survey placed Centerville among their top three locations for a performing arts center. Despite being one of Fremont's historic downtowns, the neighborhood contains many neglected buildings suffering from deferred maintenance, although there have been successful efforts to improve some of the buildings in the neighborhood. The area is not proximate to other civic amenities or attractions, and while ethnic dining exists in the neighborhood, mainstream food and shopping is not available. While served by bus lines, the area is not convenient to BART, parking in the area can be difficult, and Centerville was frequently cited in interviews as problematic to reach from the rest of Fremont. The neighborhood contains a rail station that serves Amtrak and ACE trains. The area's dense, downtown nature means a parcel or parcels with adequate capacity for a performing arts center may be difficult to acquire, and since most of the properties in Centerville are privately owned, acquisition may be more difficult and costly than elsewhere.

Despite these drawbacks, Centerville offers some advantages over Downtown Fremont and Central Park. As a true downtown neighborhood, it offers strong historical and cultural resonance with performing arts use, and introducing new activity into the area may have stronger and more positive multiplier effects on nearby businesses (such as restaurants and event centers) than in other parts of the City. It has been suggested by some Centerville community leaders that the neighborhood's diverse ethnic makeup could be leveraged to create a unique destination emphasizing South Asian cultures (including Afghan).



### III. CENTER THEATER REUSE STUDY

In addition to considering the market for a performing arts center in Fremont, AMS was asked to evaluate the role that the Center Theater, located at 37411 Fremont Boulevard in the Centerville district, should play in the arts and cultural life of its neighborhood and the City.

### Center Theater

The Center Theater opened in 1946 as a movie theater, originally seating 700. It was operated as a first-run venue until the 1970s, with a varied history thereafter, accommodating church services, Spanish-language films, adult, and discount second-run films. In 1990, it began operating as the Naz Cinema, showing Indian-language films with some success. The Naz operation relocated to a larger multiplex cinema in 2000, and full-time use of the Center as a cinema ended. Since then, the theater has been renamed the Park Theater and is used as an event venue, as a church, and for occasional screenings of Asian movies. Investment has been made in up-to-date film projection (both analog and digital) and sound equipment, as well as seating renovations.

The property includes two retail spaces adjacent to the lobby and multiple residential rental units behind the building.

### Centerville

### Description

Centerville, one of the original five towns comprising Fremont, features a business district running from Central Avenue to Thornton Avenue, centered on railroad tracks serving ACE and Amtrak. The Center Theater is only a hundred yards away from the railroad corridor. The business district is characterized by a mix of buildings dating from both before and after the Second World War, serving a wide variety of functions. There are no fewer than four event spaces in the neighborhood: the Center Theater, a Masonic hall, the Diamond Palace and the Century House, located in a former funeral home.

Many structures need rehabilitation, with deteriorated retail buildings in the central commercial corridor along Fremont Boulevard. As a result, empty storefronts are evident in the commercial core. The presence of several large parcels of cleared land awaiting redevelopment is a frequently-mentioned sore spot among Centerville residents and businesses.

The area is generally regarded as safe, although some respondents interviewed for this study expressed worries about parking their vehicles and walking on dark streets at night.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> http://cinematreasures.org/theater/2613/ Retrieved on April 23, 2009.



# **Current Planning Situation**

A Centerville Specific Plan was prepared by HGHB Architecture for the City of Fremont in 1993, last amended in 2006, though not comprehensively updated. The current plan does not mention the Center Theater, although it cites the "preservation and creation of civic, cultural and educational facilities and amenities as a catalyst for area revitalization" as a specific goal of the Centerville Redevelopment Plan. This goal, number 22 of 23, was adopted by the City's Redevelopment Agency in 1997.<sup>3</sup>

A need for an area-specific economic development strategy was cited by many neighborhood and City leaders.

### Center for Investment in the Arts Project

### Review

The Center Theater has been the subject of many planning efforts over the past decade, including an extensive study and business plan prepared by VenueTech Management Group, working in concert with the Center Theater Preservation Group, a non-profit community organization. The current plan calls for the creation of a "Center for Investment in the Arts," consisting of a Center Theater extensively renovated for use by the live performing arts and seating 400, and a "Cultural Arts Resource Center." The Cultural Arts Resource Center, also known as the "Arts Incubator," would consist of new construction totaling about 10,000 square feet to the rear of the existing theater (demolition of existing apartments would be required) that would house rehearsal, office, classroom, and production facilities, as well as serve as loading and backstage access for the renovated theater. Users of the Center for Investment in the Arts are projected to be "non-profit, community and professional performing arts organizations from around Fremont and the Tri Cities." In addition to providing physical facilities for such organizations, various programs are planned, including a "volunteer clearinghouse." The plan states that the Center's overarching mission is dedicated to:

- "Building alliances between artists, arts organizations, and those individuals and businesses that are committed to funding artistic and creative development.
- Encouraging cultural growth in Fremont and the surrounding Region.
- Stimulating the economic benefits of the arts and ensuring that the Fremont business community participates in the significant impact of economic activity generated by the arts sector.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Centerville Specific Plan (1993-2006, amended), pg. 134.

- Offering an environment for artists and arts organizations to develop creative ideas, experiment with new concepts and produce programs that are appealing to a regional audience.
- Providing tools which will help facilitate the development of professional nonprofit arts organizations and foster a more business-like arts sector."

A cost estimate has also been prepared by the consultants, based on comparison with two other projects in the Bay Area, a new recreation center in Danville and the historic restoration of a movie theater in Alameda.

The cost for construction, renovation, and theatrical equipment is estimated at \$7.4 million, not including acquisition, demolition, fees, owners' costs, or furniture, fixtures, and equipment. Operational cost forecasts had not been provided to AMS as of this writing, although the Center Theater Preservation Group has stated their intention to raise \$4 million towards endowment, an amount that could be projected to generate (at 5 percent per year) \$200,000 annually towards operations.

### Assessment

A review of the VenueTech plan reveals numerous concerns:

- Given the survey responses of local organizations in regard to the location of a performing arts center (see "Use Analysis" on page 15), the Center Theater and Centerville do not present themselves as prime candidates for the extensive investment that will be required to make the Center Theater a viable performing arts venue.
- Projected utilization is uncertain. Discussion with leadership representing three of Fremont's oldest and largest performing arts companies indicate concern about the proposed theater facilities:
  - O The Fremont Symphony orchestra indicated that the stage is too small to accommodate their full orchestra.
  - o The new Fremont Opera also expresses concern about the stage size and theater systems.
  - o The City's premier youth theater, StarStruck, has indicated they are satisfied with their situation at Ohlone College and foresee limited use of the Center Theater.
- Over the past ten years community organizers have struggled to gain public support and raise funds for the project.



• The vast majority of cultural facilities of this type and size require the ongoing support of public (tax) funds and the City of Fremont has clearly indicated its lack of financial capacity to provide operating support.

### Film, Food, & Arts Venue

In addition to the Performing Arts Market Study and the review of the Center for Investment in the Arts project, AMS was asked to consider alternate uses for the Center Theater.

Our investigation of possible alternate uses for the Center Theater began by codifying the City's goals for the building and the neighborhood, based on interviews with citizens, City leaders and neighborhood representatives. AMS discerns these goals as follows:

- Providing a cultural amenity for residents of Centerville and Fremont, with a particular emphasis on a "quality" experience.
- Revitalizing Centerville by using an active, restored Center Theater to catalyze retail and other development and drive pedestrian traffic to the area.
- A project that is self-sustaining, following an initial capital investment.

AMS identified a concept known as "film & food," or "theater pub," which could fulfill the City's goals. Blending this concept with the ability to provide for live performing arts events could also address the identified need for a locally-serving performing arts center in Fremont, at least in the short-term.

### Film & Food Industry Characteristics

Film & food venues, or theater pubs, are widely scattered around North America, with a strong concentration in the Pacific Northwest. While there are some commonalities between various venues, as an industry they defy easy categorization. The basic themes are:

- A programming mix differentiated in some way from first-run movie theatres, including mainstream films in secondary release (often called "subruns" or "move-overs"), independent, art, foreign-language, cult (e.g., Napoleon Dynamite, Rocky Horror Picture Show) and repertory/classic films (e.g., Citizen Kane, Rear Window).
- Food and beverage (typically limited to beer and wine) service that patrons may take into the theater and consume on tables or counters.



Ownership of film & food venues is mostly by dedicated entrepreneurs, not national or regional chains. The complex nature of the business seems to have kept chains away for now, but corporate interest in the concept is beginning to be seen.

One reason for the programming mix commonly seen at film & food venues is the revenue-share model that prevails between film distributors (the middleman between studios and theaters) and exhibitors. First-run venues turn over from 70 to 90 percent of ticket revenue to a limited number of distributors, turning a profit, if any, on sales of concessions, advertising, and other non-admission revenue. The films most commonly shown by film & food venues pay at most 35-40 percent of ticket revenue to a large number of distributors.

The food component of the model varies as widely as the film programming, from pizza and pub fare to "white tablecloth" dining. Typically, venues offer a middle-of-the-road menu, with pizza, salads, appetizers, sandwiches, pasta, and wine, beer, and soft drinks. High-quality popcorn is essential, and desserts and familiar movie theater confections round out the offerings. The "food" component of a film & food venue is able to achieve restaurant-level profit margins of approximately 5-7 percent (after rent), which, although modest, are a significant contribution to a venue's bottom line.

Other common, but not universal, elements of the film & food model include:

- A propensity to use renovated historic theaters or other adapted spaces, rather than newly-constructed facilities.
- Lower price points and, frequently, a value-oriented competitive advantage. Ticket prices range nationally from \$3 to \$7 (approximately 50 to 70 percent off ticket prices at first-run cinemas), and food and beverage prices are around \$3 to \$9, though high-end venues may offer entrees in the \$15-\$25 range.
- Special events, which can include "mommy & me" matinee screenings, where crying infants are welcomed; film festivals; filmmaker Q and A and panel discussions; corporate events and fundraisers; live music, comedy; and availability for rental by the community.

In the course of our research, we spoke with a number of film & food operators, who left us with several important findings:

• Every venue, market, and community is unique, and the programming that is appropriate at one may not be at another. Learn about your community and create a balance between its desires and what you would like to offer.



- Large profits are not to be made in this industry, although a living can be made, and venues have been sustained for many years.
- These venues are challenged to exist in a competitive marketplace and overcrowded entertainment landscape, which includes first-run cinemas, home theaters, movies and television available online, and more. Thin profit margins are the norm, and active and engaged management is required for success.
- The quality of patron experience matters, from the moment patrons leave their car, walk along city streets to the theater, purchase tickets, enter, order food, and then consume both food and film. For aficionados, experience quality extends to the quality of the film print itself. Views such as these were echoed by the community.

# **Competitive Analysis**

In the Bay Area, three venues have been identified that incorporate film & food, to varying degrees.

- The Cerrito Speakeasy Theater, in the renovated historic Cerrito Theater in El Cerrito, is a strong exemplar for the concept. Operating on two screens, with 120 and 140 seats, the programming and menu options are almost exactly as described above. A trademark of this venue is its use of sofas and armchairs as part of the audience seating, which provides a laid-back, "living room" atmosphere.<sup>4</sup>
- Foreign Cinema, in San Francisco's Mission District, offers a higher-end twist on the film & food concept. Patrons there may enjoy white-tablecloth dining, with entrees up to \$30. Film programming at the Foreign Cinema is geared towards foreign-language films, with some second-run mainstream or independent American movies.
- The Kabuki Cinema, operated by Sundance Cinemas (associated with Robert Redford's Sundance Institute), in San Francisco, offers another upscale film & food experience. Food and beverages are available from three restaurants or bars within or adjacent to the venue, and certain items may be brought into one of seven screening rooms. This venue offers other higher-end amenities, such as elegant architecture and finishes and reserved seating. Film programming is somewhat more mainstream than the Cerrito or Foreign



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> On May 22, 2009, the operators of the Cerrito Theater announced the venue's immediate closure "until further notice" due to financial difficulties. The City of El Cerrito is reportedly seeking a new operator for the venue.

Cinema, but is diverse and includes foreign, independent, and other staples of the film & food concept.

None of the three venues offering film & food in the Bay Area is within or proximate to the Fremont market area.

Figure 15: Bay Area Specialty Film Venues

City	Venue Name		
Albany	Albany Twin		
	Elmwood Theatre		
Berkeley	Pacific Film Archive		
	Shattuck Cinemas		
El Cerrito	Cerrito Theatre		
Fremont	Naz 8 Cinemas		
Larkspur	Lark Theater		
Los Gatos	Los Gatos Cinema		
Menlo Park	Guild Theatre		
Milpitas	Serra Theatre		
Oakland	Piedmont Theatre		
Palo Alto	Aquarius Theatre		
Paio Aito	Stanford Theatre		
	Bridge Theatre		
	Clay Theatre		
	Embarcadero Center Cinema		
	Foreign Cinema		
San Francisco	Kabuki Theatre		
San Francisco	Lumiere Theatre		
	Opera Plaza Cinema		
	Red Vic Movie House		
	Roxie Cinema		
	Yerba Buena Center for the Arts		
	Camera 3		
San Iosa	Camera 7		
San Jose	Camera 12		
	Indian Movie Center 6		
San Rafael	Rafael Film Center		
Santa Rosa	Rialto Lakeside Cinemas		



However, film and food venues compete with other "specialty" (i.e., not first-run) movie theaters, and the distribution of this kind of venue around the Bay Area is widespread. Please see Figure 15 for a list of venues identified by AMS. The venues on this list that are closest to the Center Theater are the Naz 8 Cinemas, in downtown Fremont, and the Serra Theatre, in Milpitas. Both of these venues exclusively showcase Indian movies and other films of South Asia. The existence of the Naz and the Serra – as well as a third theater, the Indian Movie Center 6, in San Jose – suggests that the Center Theater should not screen foreign-language films from South Asia, and should embrace a broader programming mix.

Since all entertainment venues, like movie theaters, essentially compete with the full range of consumer leisure-time pursuits, we include first-run movie theaters in the competitive analysis. Fremont's only first-run venue, Cinedome 8, closed its doors in March, 2009. If the venue's neighbor, Cinedome 7 in Newark, closes later this year (as is expected), the only first-run theater in the Tri Cities will be the Century 25 theater in Union City, approximately six miles from the Center Theater (Cinedome 7 is almost four miles from the Center Theater). The demise of these theaters reflects the uncertainty of the market for first-run films in the Tri Cities. However, the closures do not diminish the prospects for a film & food concept in the Center Theater. Our anecdotal research suggests that the demographics for the film & food market are broader than those for first-run cinema.

According to a recent movie attendance study, moviegoing in the United States is dominated by attendees in the 12-24 year-old age group. This cohort is the largest group of attendees, attends more frequently, and attends out of proportion to its size within the general population. <sup>5</sup> Unlike this first-run market, which is dominated by a young demographic whose primary motivation is to see the newest films, AMS believes that the film & food concept would be attended by moviegoers of all ages, motivated by a diverse set of factors. Such motivations may include food and beverage service, eclectic film offerings, low prices, and the social experience of dining while attending a movie. Such attendance patterns are the norm at existing film & food venues around the United States.

A film & food concept in the Center Theater may help to address the consumer appetite for movies in the Tri Cities, and AMS believes that such a concept in the Center Theater would neither directly compete for market share with first-run theaters nor be subject to the same market forces which resulted in the closure of Cinedome 8 and possibly Cinedome 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Motion Picture Association of America 2007 Movie Attendance Study, available at: http://www.mpaa.org/movieattendancestudy.pdf.



# **Program Concept**

At the Center Theater, a program concept is envisioned that blends the film & food concept with a capacity to present or host smaller-scale live performing arts. The components of the concept are:

- Diverse film programming. Fremont currently lacks a venue offering independent, art, foreign-language (apart from Indian-language), or classic films. The film & food concept in the Center Theater would touch upon most or all of these programming areas, as well as offering mainstream films in secondary release, thus satisfying consumers that might ordinarily attend a first-run venue.
- Food and beverage service with broad appeal. During our interviews, we were informed that "food, language, and politics" are three hot-button areas best avoided when different ethnic populations assemble, thus it would appear that it would be best for the Center Theater to offer relatively mainstream cuisine akin to that on the menu at existing film & food venues like the Cerrito Theater.

Some operators of existing film & food venues informed us that they are able to earn revenue from catering during events which rent their venues. If such a business model were to be implemented at the Center Theater, more diverse food offerings tailored to the tastes of user groups could be made available.

Performing arts capability and programming. Thanks to the Center Theater's high ceilings and large footprint, there is room for a stage and modest technical accommodations, which would support live performing arts use. (Please see Building Concept, below, for details on the proposed renovation and construction of the facility.) By dovetailing such use around film programming, the Center Theater could partially accommodate performance needs of arts organizations in Fremont.

In addition to use on a rental basis by community arts organizations, the venue could be available for rent by individuals and organizations seeking a meeting or event space.

The Center Theater would only address the need for performance space for small-scale productions and short-term runs. The need in Fremont for performance space for more elaborate and longer-term runs must be addressed by a different facility.



Operation by private/non-profit entity. We project that the Center Theater,
after acquisition and renovation by the City, could attract an operator from
the private or non-profit sector. Such an operator may pay monthly rent, or a
portion of profits or revenue, or both, to the city. An operator could also be
expected to maintain access to the facility for performing arts, community, or
other uses that the City may wish to accommodate.

# **Building Concept**

AMS engaged Kurt Schindler, AIA, a principal at ELS Architecture & Urban Planning in Berkeley, to advise us on the physical condition of the Center Theater and the requirements for film & food use. A building concept that would accommodate the program concept was developed, which includes:

Construction of a lateral wall at the theater's cross-aisle to divide the theater
into two screening rooms. This wall would have the added benefit of adding
seismic stability to the building.

The preliminary analysis indicates that the upper room will accommodate 142 seats, the lower room 218 seats in cinema mode, 204 seats in playhouse mode.

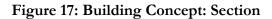
- Installation of a portable modular stage in the lower screening room, of approximately 700 square feet. The stage could be removed for film screenings. A fixed grid for lighting, sound, and stage equipment would be installed over the stage, along with other modest upgrades to the theater's existing lighting and sound package.
- Addition of tables for use by dining patrons. Myriad schemes exist for adding tables or counters, but according to one layout developed by ELS, the upper screening room could accommodate tables between seats, while the lower room could accommodate counters attached to seat-backs. Addition of sofas or other non-traditional seating, or a different table system may increase or decrease the seat count.
- Demolition of the building behind the theater.
- Construction of an addition of approximately 1,000 gross square feet behind the theater. This structure would contain performer support spaces, including dressing rooms, a green room, and performers' bathrooms, and space for loading scenery and equipment into the theater.

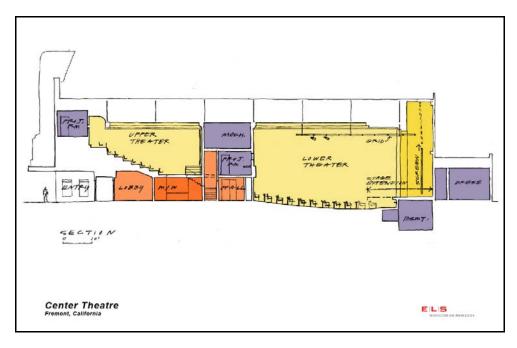


• Renovation of the theater's lobby and the attached restaurant spaces. The lobby would be enlarged and reorganized to accommodate the "front of house" food and beverage operation, while one of the restaurant kitchens would be renovated and/or expanded to become the theater's kitchen.



Figure 16: Center Theater







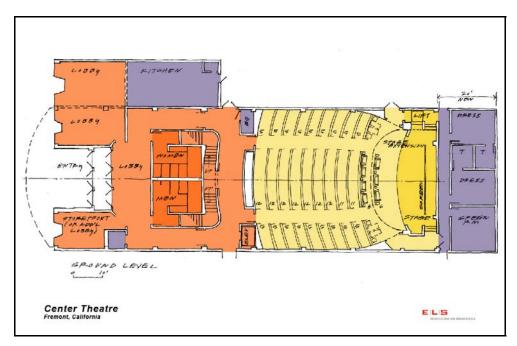
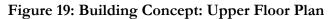
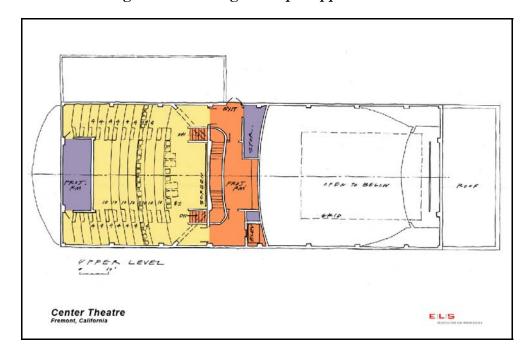


Figure 18: Building Concept: Ground Floor Plan







# **Project Budget**

AMS and ELS have prepared a preliminary project budget for the program and building concepts described above for the Center Theater. Please see Figure 20 for the estimated project budget, and Figure 21 for square-footage details. Assumptions for this budget include:

- Construction and renovation includes all necessary accessibility and seismic upgrades (elevator, wall reinforcement, etc.). Cost per square foot for construction and renovation: \$450.
- Demolition of the residential units at the rear of the theater. Cost per square foot for demolition: \$50.
- Fees and owners' costs ("soft costs") estimated at 30 percent of construction and renovation costs. This allowance includes architectural, engineering, and legal fees, permits, impact studies, testing, and developer fee.
- Cost for furniture, fixtures, and equipment ("FF&E") estimated at 5 percent of construction and renovation costs. This allowance includes all audience seating.
- In addition to standard FF&E, allowances are included for the purchase of specialized theatrical, kitchen, and film projection equipment (although the Center Theater currently has one projection room, an additional projection room will be required).
- Contingency estimated at 10 percent of total project cost.

This estimate does not include acquisition of the building or cost escalation (all figures are in 2009 dollars).



Figure 20: Project Cost Estimate

Element	Cost Estimate
Construction & Renovation	\$4,640,000
Demolition	\$150,000
Fees & Owners' Costs	\$1,392,000
Furnishings, Fixtures, & Equipment	\$232,000
Theater Equipment	\$180,000
Kitchen Equipment	\$125,000
Film Equipment	\$100,000
Contingency	\$681,000
Total Project Cost	\$7,500,000

Figure 21: Building Element Areas

Building Element	Gross Square Feet
Theater	8,400
Restaurant	912
Performer Support (New)	1,000
Total	10,312
Residental Units (estimated)	3,000

### **Operational Forecast**

AMS prepared an operating forecast for a base stable year of operation at the Center Theater, renovated and operating according to the building and program concepts described above. Please see Figure 22 for summary revenue and expense figures. All figures are in 2009 dollars.

Assumptions for this forecast include:

- **Film:** An average ticket price of \$5, and an average of 40 percent paid capacity and an average of 28 film screenings per week.
- Food & Beverage: Average revenue of \$6 per patron.
- **Performing Arts:** An average of two events per month, each yielding net revenue of \$500.



- Occupancy: Annual cost (including utilities, insurance, security, and routine maintenance) of \$12 per square foot.
- Payments to City: Payments to the City as "rent" or on a revenue-sharing basis may be a possibility.

Figure 22: Operating Forecast

Revenue	
Film admissions	\$495,000
Food & beverage sales	\$594,000
Rental events	\$12,000
Total	\$1,101,000

Expense	
Payment to film distributor	\$173,000
Non-food & beverage labor	\$187,000
Food & beverage	
Cost of goods	\$178,000
Labor	\$196,000
Direct operating	\$59,000
General & administration	\$12,000
Occupancy	\$124,000
Administrative overhead	\$12,000
Marketing	\$39,000
Equipment maintenance	\$24,000
Credit card fees	\$8,000
Allowance for capital repair	\$50,000
Total	\$1,062,000



#### IV. CENTERVILLE FIRE STATION STUDY

AMS and ELS assessed the Centerville Fire Station (formerly designated Fire Station #6 by the Fremont Fire Department) to determine what renovations or construction would be required for the building's reuse. We also assessed some possible uses for the structure.

### Building Assessment

The Centerville Fire Station was constructed in 1954, and includes approximately 4,500 square feet on two floors, along with a large covered driveway at the rear of the building constituting 750 square feet. The station was abandoned by the fire department in the fall of 2008 for reasons including the building's inability to accommodate modern firefighting apparatus.

As currently configured, the station's ground floor is almost entirely occupied by a high-ceilinged apparatus bay, along with a small restroom and utility rooms. The ground floor features large roll-up garage doors at either end. The upper floor, also featuring high ceilings, includes a kitchen, bathroom with showers, office, dormitory, and multi-purpose "day room." A small patio is connected to the kitchen, and is accessible from an exterior staircase. A single interior staircase connects the ground and upper floors. The building is unremarkable architecturally or historically. The fire station is located across Fremont Boulevard from the Center Theater.

A number of accommodations would be necessary in order for the fire station to be suitable for use by the public. An elevator or wheelchair lift would be required to make the upper floor accessible, and more complete restrooms for both sexes would need to be installed in the ground floor, at a minimum, and possibly the upper floor as well. The seismic concerns that prompted (in part) the departure of the fire station would also have to be addressed.

#### Potential Uses

The building could be renovated and reconfigured in many ways; one which could utilize the existing accommodations for arts-related activities could include:

- The ground floor could become a multi-purpose room for performance, rehearsal, or classes. Such a space could accommodate up to 100 audience members, with a performance area of 500 square feet. It would be well-suited to small-scale music, spoken word, and other intimate performances and to dance or other movement classes or rehearsals.
- Renovations to the upper floor could include converting the dormitory room into classrooms for performing or fine arts classes, maintaining the kitchen,



and converting the other spaces into offices. Enclosing the patio may be required to accommodate this scheme.

The renovations described above, including those related to seismic and accessibility concerns, would render the fire station useable by arts or community organizations for programs, production space and offices – many of the functions envisioned in the plan for the Center Theater "incubator" project. Other possible uses may be imagined, such as recreational classes that would take advantage of the building's high ceilings, wide clear spans, and prime street frontage.

The cost for renovations such as those described above could be as low as approximately \$225 per square foot, yielding a budget of around \$1 million for construction and renovation (not including fees, FF&E, and other costs).

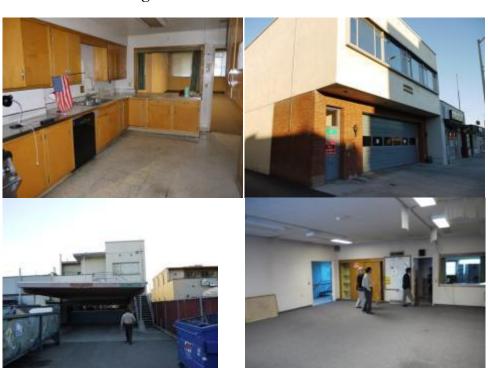


Figure 23: Centerville Fire Station



#### V. RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

AMS recommends that the City undertake several steps in order to ensure the best possible outcome for the future of the performing arts in Fremont.

- Convene one or more town hall-style community workshops, in which
  community members may hear the results of this study and express their
  opinions, desires, and needs. In gatherings like this, the City should endeavor
  to build consensus around a plan and cultivate community leadership that
  will be critical to any plan's success.
- Begin working to acquire the Center Theater from the current owner, or obtain an option to acquire the theater at a later time at an established price.
- Begin the process of identifying an operator for a renovated Center Theater.
   In the course of our research, AMS identified four current film venue or film and food venue operators who expressed preliminary interest in a new endeavor.
- Explore potential uses for the Centerville Fire Station, including, but not limited to: a home for city programs, community uses, commercial opportunities, etc.



#### **APPENDIX A: PERSONS CONTACTED**

Dirk Lorenz

Terry Alderete Andy MacRae Bill Marshak Prescott Allen Sharon Marshak Ana Apodaca Bernice Baeza Nina Moore Naren Bakshi Farzana Nabi Jasmine Bojic Anu Natarajan Christopher Booras Debbie Otterstetter Geneva Bosques Rona Popal

Dorothy Bradley Alanna Powell Suzanne Chan Susan Rose Bruce Davis Scott Rowits Vivian Sam Fred Diaz Vishnu Sharma Melissa Dile Daren Fields Suzanne Shenafil Catherine Fischer Sudev Sheth Kyle Fischer David Sidiq Jaideep Singh Julie Gilson David Sloss Taryn Hanen

Taryn Hanen David Sloss
Bill Harrison Sue Stevens
Tim Hills Lori Stokes
Annabell Holland June Swift
John C.K. Hsieh Phil Swift

Patrick Hubley Margaret Thornberry
Shiraz Jivani Bob Wasserman
Jill Keimach Stephanie Wesley
David King Bob Wieckowski
Kapir Kumar Garrett Yee



### **APPENDIX B:** ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVING SURVEY

Academy of Chinese Performing Arts

Chinese Artist Network

Fremont Art Association

Fremont Cultural Arts Council

Fremont Symphony Orchestra

Fremont Opera

Friends of Children with Special Needs

Music at the Mission

Olive Hyde Art Gallery

The You in Me, Inc.

League of Volunteers

Newark Symphonic Winds

Stage 1 Theatre

StarStruck Theater

Broadway West Theatre Company

Brask House Concerts

Yoko's Dance and Performing Arts Academy

Music for Minors II

Music Teachers Association (Southern Alameda County Branch)

Fremont Education Foundation

Calaveras Repertory Theatre

Jensen School for the Performing Arts

Mission Dance & Performing Arts

Step 2 This Dance Studio



### **APPENDIX C:** DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY

Please see attached pages for the complete Demographic Summary.



Analysis Geography 1: Fremont City 5/1/2009

Analysis Geography 2: Primary Market
Analysis Geography 3: Trade Area

Comparison Geography: Polygon (Defined by Block Groups) AMS Planning & Research Corp.

## **Key Demographic Indicators**

	City	Primary	Trade Area	Polygo
2008 Estimated Population	205,931	320,006	599,417	582,99
Age Analysis:				
# of Children, Ages 5-14	29,144	45,389	84,721	82,76
% Children, Ages 5-14	14.2%	14.2%	14.1%	14.29
# of Adults, Ages 35-59	79,727	121,522	223,201	215,97
% Adults, Ages 35-59	38.7%	38.0%	37.2%	37.0
# of Adults, Ages 60+	29,187	45,544	86,328	86,20
% Adults, Ages 60+	14.2%	14.2%	14.4%	14.89
2008 Estimated Households	67,691	99,896	187,091	182,75
ncome Analysis:				
# of Households with Income > \$75,000	36,048	53,127	86,277	83,82
% Households with Income > \$75,000	53.3%	53.2%	46.1%	45.9
Median Household Income*	\$103,587	\$99,430	\$90,240	\$89,68
half above, half below	•	•	•	. ,
Average Household Income (mean)	\$124,600	\$118,570	\$108,103	\$107,30
% 2003 Households Below Poverty	3.9%	4.2%	5.1%	5.0
Educational Attainment				
% Adults (25+) with Bachelors Degree or Higher	43.2%	37.9%	31.8%	31.29
Race/Ethnicity				
% Population Hispanic (independent of race)	14.0%	18.6%	24.5%	24.8
% Population Black/African American	2.8%	3.5%	5.9%	6.0
% Population Asian/Pacific Islander	47.1%	45.4%	39.5%	38.5
Marital Status & Children				
% Single	25.2%	26.4%	28.2%	27.8
% Married	62.5%	61.6%	58.5%	58.6
% Previously Married	12.3%	12.1%	13.3%	13.6
# of Households with Children	29,381	45,251	82,097	80,22
% Households with Children	43.4%	45.3%	43.9%	43.99
Travel Time to Work, 2008 Pop. 16+ Yrs.				
% Less than 15 minutes/Work At Home	19.7%	19.3%	19.3%	18.8
	13.1%	13.1%	11.9%	12.4
% 60+ Mins. Travel to Work	13.170	10.170		

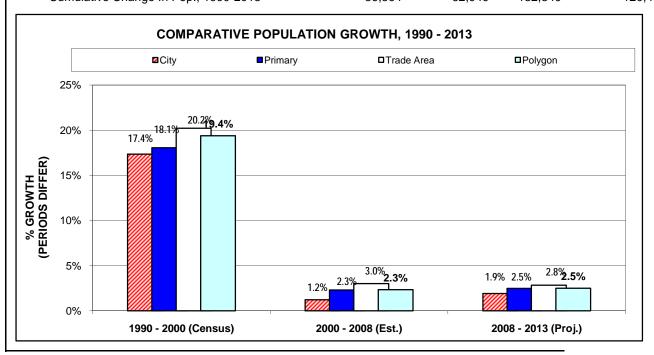
Analysis Geography 1: Fremont City 5/1/2009

Analysis Geography 2: Primary Market Analysis Geography 3: Trade Area

Comparison Geography: Polygon (Defined by Block Groups) AMS Planning & Research Corp.

## Population and Growth

	City	Primary	Trade Area	Polygon
POPULATION				
2013 Projection	209,895	327,931	616,384	597,593
2008 Estimate	205,931	320,006	599,417	582,991
2000 Census	203,413	312,815	581,885	569,642
1990 Census	173,331	264,982	484,044	477,130
Growth 2008 - 2013	1.9%	2.5%	2.8%	2.5%
HOUSEHOLDS				
2013 Projection	68,096	100,902	190,143	184,711
2008 Estimate	67,691	99,896	187,091	182,753
2000 Census	68,237	99,895	184,947	182,554
1990 Census	60,195	87,939	162,343	162,466
Growth 1990 - 2000	13.4%	13.6%	13.9%	12.4%
POPULATION GROWTH				
Change In Population, 1990-2000, Est.	30,082	47,833	97,841	92,512
Change In Population, 2000-2008, Est.	2,518	7,191	17,532	13,349
Change In Population, 2008-2013, Proj.	3,964	7,925	16,967	14,602
Cumulative Change In Pop., 1990-2013	36,564	62,949	132,340	120,463



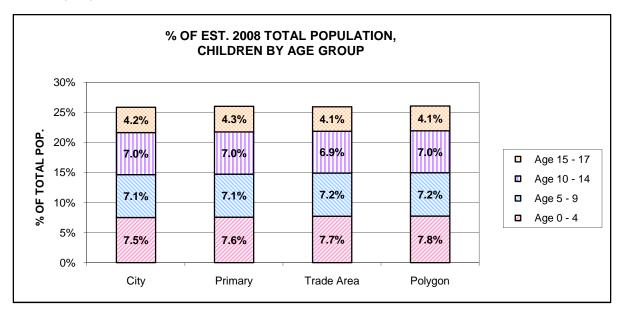
Analysis Geography 1: Fremont City 5/1/2009

Analysis Geography 2: Primary Market Analysis Geography 3: Trade Area

Comparison Geography: Polygon (Defined by Block Groups) AMS Planning & Research Corp.

### Age

	City	Primary	Trade Area	Polygon
2008 EST. POPULATION BY AGE	205,931	320,006	599,417	582,991
Age 0 - 4	7.5%	7.6%	7.7%	7.8%
Age 5 - 9	7.1%	7.1%	7.2%	7.2%
Age 10 - 14	7.0%	7.0%	6.9%	7.0%
Age 15 - 17	4.2%	4.3%	4.1%	4.1%
Age 18 - 20	3.4%	3.7%	3.8%	3.8%
Age 21 - 24	4.5%	4.8%	4.9%	4.9%
Age 25 - 34	13.3%	13.3%	13.7%	13.4%
Age 35 - 44	16.6%	16.4%	16.4%	16.2%
Age 45 - 49	8.6%	8.3%	8.0%	8.0%
Age 50 - 54	7.3%	7.2%	6.9%	6.9%
Age 55 - 59	6.1%	6.2%	5.9%	6.0%
Age 60 - 64	4.6%	4.7%	4.5%	4.5%
Age 65 - 74	5.6%	5.7%	5.6%	5.7%
Age 75 - 84	2.9%	2.8%	3.1%	3.3%
Age 85 and over	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%	1.3%
Median Age	36.74	36.35	36.00	36.13
Average Age	36.20	36.00	35.93	36.09

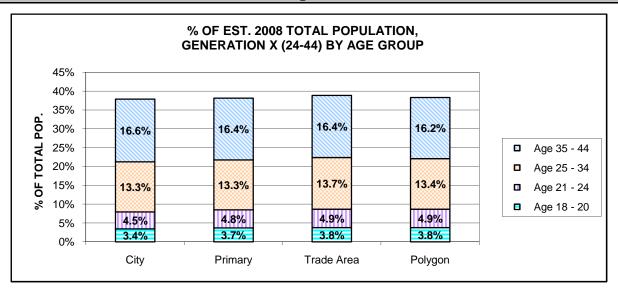


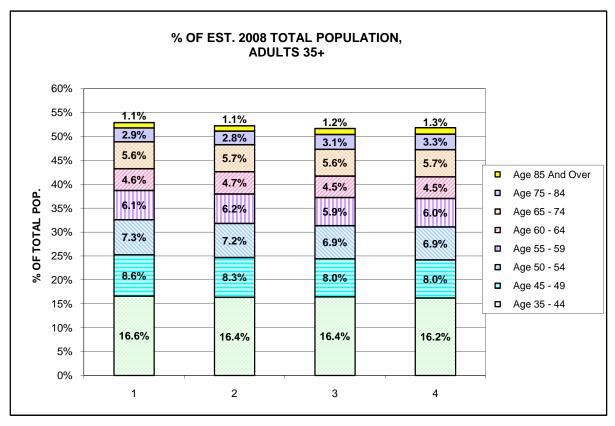
Analysis Geography 1: Fremont City 5/1/2009

Analysis Geography 2: Primary Market Analysis Geography 3: Trade Area

Comparison Geography: Polygon (Defined by Block Groups) AMS Planning & Research Corp.

### Age





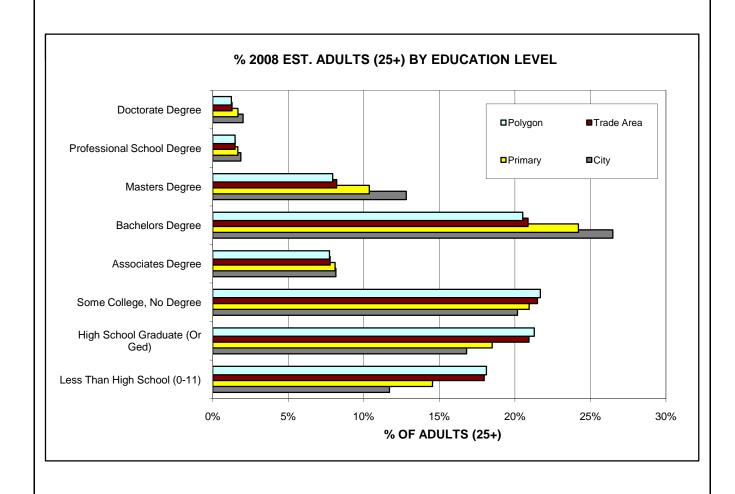
Analysis Geography 1: Fremont City 5/1/2009

Analysis Geography 2: Primary Market
Analysis Geography 3: Trade Area

Comparison Geography: Polygon (Defined by Block Groups) AMS Planning & Research Corp.

### **Educational Attainment**

	City	Primary T	rade Area	Polygon
2008 EST. POPULATION (25+) BY EDUCATION LEVEL	136,288	209,558	391,830	380,463
Less than 9th grade	5.2%	6.8%	8.3%	8.4%
Some High School, no diploma	6.5%	7.7%	9.7%	9.8%
High School Graduate (or GED)	16.8%	18.5%	20.9%	21.3%
Some College, no degree	20.2%	20.9%	21.5%	21.7%
Associates Degree	8.2%	8.1%	7.8%	7.7%
Bachelors Degree	26.5%	24.2%	20.9%	20.5%
Masters Degree	12.8%	10.4%	8.2%	7.9%
Professional School Degree	1.9%	1.7%	1.5%	1.5%
Doctorate Degree	2.0%	1.7%	1.3%	1.2%



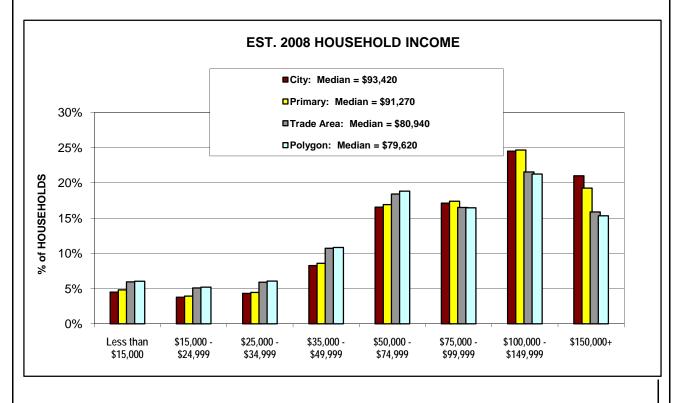
Analysis Geography 1: Fremont City 5/1/2009

Analysis Geography 2: Primary Market
Analysis Geography 3: Trade Area

Comparison Geography: Polygon (Defined by Block Groups) AMS Planning & Research Corp.

### Income

	Trade			
	City	Primary	Area	Polygon
2008 EST. HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME	67,691	99,896	187,091	182,753
Less than \$15,000	4.5%	4.8%	6.0%	6.0%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	3.8%	3.9%	5.1%	5.2%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	4.3%	4.5%	5.9%	6.1%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	8.3%	8.6%	10.7%	10.8%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	16.6%	16.9%	18.4%	18.8%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	17.1%	17.4%	16.5%	16.5%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	24.5%	24.7%	21.5%	21.3%
\$150,000 - \$249,999	15.6%	14.8%	12.3%	11.9%
\$250,000 - \$499,999	3.9%	3.3%	2.7%	2.5%
\$500,000 and more	1.5%	1.2%	0.9%	0.9%
2008 Est. Average HH Income	\$113,993	\$109,327	\$98,539	\$97,189
2008 Est. Median HH Income	\$93,420	\$91,265	\$80,936	\$79,621
2008 Est. Income Per Capita	\$37,763	\$34,351	\$31,076	\$30,721



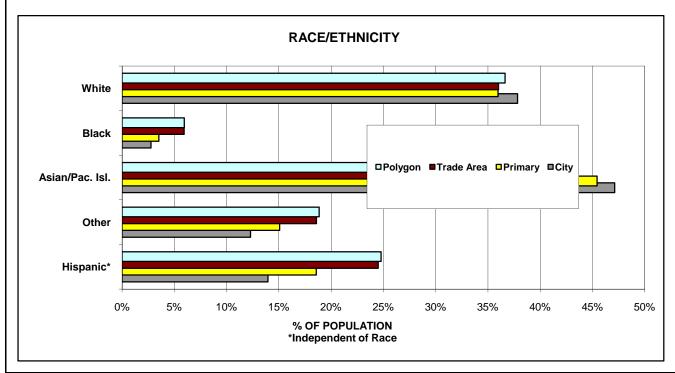
Analysis Geography 1: Fremont City 5/1/2009

Analysis Geography 2: Primary Market
Analysis Geography 3: Trade Area

Comparison Geography: Polygon (Defined by Block Groups) AMS Planning & Research Corp.

### Race

	City	Primary	Trade Area	Polygon
2008 ESTIMATED POPULATION	205,931	320,006	599,417	582,991
White	37.8%	36.0%	36.0%	36.6%
Black	2.8%	3.5%	5.9%	6.0%
Asian & Pacific Islander	47.1%	45.4%	39.5%	38.5%
Other Races	12.3%	15.1%	18.6%	18.9%
Hispanic Origin (Independent Of Race)	14.0%	18.6%	24.5%	24.8%
2008 HISPANICS BY RACE	28,750	59,478	146,872	144,455
White Alone	44.9%	43.6%	41.6%	41.3%
Black	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%	1.1%
Other	54.1%	55.4%	57.4%	57.7%
2008 EST. POP. BY HISPANIC OR LATINO BY ORIGIN	205,931	320,006	599,417	582,991
Not Of Hispanic Origin	86.0%	81.4%	75.5%	75.2%
HISPANIC OR LATINO:	28,750	59,478	146,872	144,455
Mexican	69.2%	72.4%	71.9%	71.8%
Puerto Rican	4.5%	3.8%	4.1%	4.1%
Cuban	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Other Hispanic	25.7%	23.3%	23.5%	23.6%



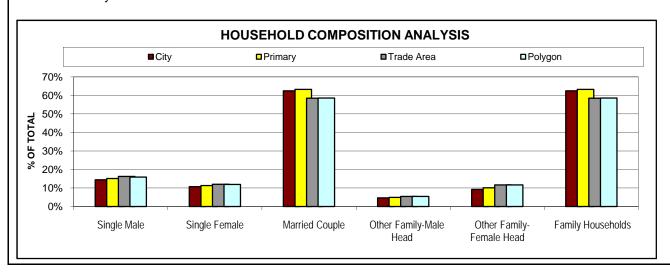
Analysis Geography 1: Fremont City 5/1/2009

Analysis Geography 2: Primary Market
Analysis Geography 3: Trade Area

Comparison Geography: Polygon (Defined by Block Groups) AMS Planning & Research Corp.

## Marital Status & Household Composition

	City	Primary	Trade Area	Polygon
MARITAL STATUS PERSONS 15+	161,297	250,365	468,258	454,940
SINGLE MALE	14.5%	15.1%	16.2%	15.9%
SINGLE FEMALE	10.7%	11.3%	12.0%	11.9%
MARRIED	57.8%	56.2%	52.1%	52.4%
PREVIOUSLY MARRIED MALE	4.0%	3.9%	4.5%	4.5%
PREVIOUSLY MARRIED FEMALE	8.3%	8.2%	8.8%	9.1%
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18 (2008)				
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	67,691	99,896	187,091	182,753
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	29,381	45,145	81,560	79,793
% HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	43.4%	45.2%	43.6%	43.7%
% MARRIED COUPLE FAMILY	62.5%	63.3%	58.5%	58.6%
HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE				
with 1 or more People Age 18 or under:	67,691	99,896	187,091	182,753
Married Couple	35.1%	36.2%	33.2%	33.3%
Other Family-Male Head	2.4%	2.6%	2.9%	2.9%
Other Family-Female Head	5.6%	6.2%	7.3%	7.3%
Nonfamily-Male Head	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Nonfamily-Female Head	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
with no People Age 18 or under:				
Married Couple	27.3%	27.1%	25.3%	25.3%
Other Family-Male Head	2.3%	2.4%	2.5%	2.5%
Other Family-Female Head	3.7%	3.9%	4.3%	4.4%
Nonfamily-Male Head	12.5%	11.3%	12.4%	12.1%
Nonfamily-Female Head	10.7%	10.1%	11.5%	11.8%



Analysis Geography 1: Fremont City 5/1/2009

Analysis Geography 2: Primary Market
Analysis Geography 3: Trade Area

Comparison Geography: Polygon (Defined by Block Groups) AMS Planning & Research Corp.

## **Property Values & Housing Stock**

	City	Primary	Trade Area	Polygon
OWNER OCCUPIED PROPERTY VALUES	42,922	65,763	116,502	114,118
Less than \$20,000	0.10%	0.14%	0.17%	0.20%
\$20,000 - \$39,999	0.26%	0.32%	0.40%	0.39%
\$40,000 - \$59,999	0.79%	0.79%	1.02%	0.90%
\$60,000 - \$79,999	1.30%	1.39%	1.22%	1.18%
\$80,000 - \$99,999	0.80%	0.87%	1.09%	0.94%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	1.41%	1.51%	2.23%	2.01%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	0.82%	0.87%	1.62%	1.49%
\$200,000 - \$299,999	2.69%	3.27%	4.50%	4.59%
\$300,000 - \$399,999	6.13%	7.26%	10.61%	11.19%
\$400,000 - \$499,999	9.89%	10.89%	15.21%	15.77%
\$500,000 +	75.81%	72.68%	61.92%	#REF
2008 MEDIAN PROPERTY VALUE	\$677,935	\$651,555	\$584,454	\$581,447
EAR ROUND UNITS IN STRUCTURE	69,321	102,069	192,079	187,400
1 Unit Attached	10.2%	10.6%	10.1%	9.5%
1 Unit Detached	58.5%	60.5%	57.0%	58.6%
2 Units	0.8%	1.0%	1.4%	1.4%
3 to 19 Units	12.1%	11.5%	12.8%	12.7%
20 to 49 Units	4.9%	4.1%	4.7%	4.9%
50 or More Units	12.4%	10.5%	10.4%	10.0%
Mobile Home Or Trailer	1.2%	1.7%	3.6%	2.9%
Boat, RV, Van, etc.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
SINGLE/MULTIPLE UNIT RATIO	2.28	2.62	2.29	2.36
IOUSING UNITS BY YEAR BUILT	69,321	102,069	192,079	187,400
Built 1999 to present	6.4%	7.2%	8.6%	7.7%
Built 1995 to 1998	5.6%	5.8%	5.0%	4.6%
Built 1990 to 1994	6.4%	5.9%	6.3%	5.5%
Built 1980 to 1989	23.3%	21.8%	17.3%	17.6%
Built 1970 to 1979	23.2%	25.8%	22.0%	22.0%
Built 1960 to 1969	21.3%	20.4%	18.3%	18.5%
Built 1950 to 1959	10.6%	9.6%	15.3%	16.3%
Built 1940 to 1949	1.7%	1.9%	4.8%	5.3%
Built 1939 Or Earlier	1.5%	1.6%	2.4%	2.5%
008 EST. TENURE OF OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS	67,691	99,896	187,091	182,753
Owner Occupied	63.4%	65.8%	62.3%	62.4%
Renter Occupied	36.6%	34.2%	37.7%	37.6%

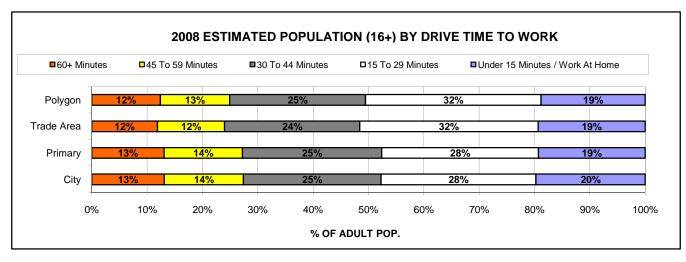
Analysis Geography 1: Fremont City 5/1/2009

Analysis Geography 2: Primary Market Analysis Geography 3: Trade Area

Comparison Geography: Polygon (Defined by Block Groups) AMS Planning & Research Corp.

### No. of Vehicles & Travel Time To Work

	City	Primary	Trade Area	Polygon
2008 EST. HOUSEHOLDS BY NO. OF VEHICLES	67,691	99,896	187,091	182,753
NO VEHICLES	4.8%	4.8%	5.8%	6.0%
1 VEHICLE	26.5%	25.1%	27.6%	27.4%
2 VEHICLES	44.1%	43.2%	41.3%	41.3%
3 VEHICLES	17.3%	18.4%	16.9%	17.0%
4 VEHICLES	5.2%	6.0%	5.8%	5.9%
5 OR MORE VEHICLES	2.0%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
2008 EST. POPULATION 16+ BY TRAVEL TIME TO WORK	99,066	151,876	277,244	269,111
LESS THAN 15 MINUTES	19.7%	19.3%	19.3%	18.8%
15 - 29 MINUTES	28.0%	28.3%	32.2%	31.7%
30 To 44 MINUTES	24.8%	25.2%	24.4%	24.6%
45 To 59 MINUTES	14.3%	14.2%	12.1%	12.5%
60 OR MORE MINUTES	13.1%	13.1%	11.9%	12.4%
EST. AVERAGE TRAVEL TIME IN MINUTES	34.7	34.7	33.3	33.8
2008 EST. POPULATION 16+ BY TRANSPORTATION TO WORK	101,808	155,598	283,206	274,983
DROVE ALONE	77.4%	76.2%	75.1%	74.6%
CAR POOLED	12.3%	13.8%	14.6%	14.9%
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION	5.0%	5.1%	5.3%	5.4%
WALKED	1.1%	1.1%	1.4%	1.3%
MOTORCYCLE	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
BICYCLE	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%
OTHER MEANS	0.6%	0.7%	0.8%	0.8%
WORKED AT HOME	2.7%	2.4%	2.1%	2.1%



Analysis Geography 1: Fremont City 5/1/2009

Analysis Geography 2: Primary Market Analysis Geography 3: Trade Area

Comparison Geography: Polygon (Defined by Block Groups) AMS Planning & Research Corp.

### **Occupation**

	City	Primary	Trade Area	Polygon
2008 EST. POPULATION 16+ BY OCCUPATION	103,791	158,937	289,472	281,130
EXECUTIVE AND MANAGERIAL	18.8%	17.1%	15.1%	14.9%
PROFESSIONAL AND RELATED SERVICES	31.1%	27.7%	24.7%	24.1%
SERVICE	7.8%	9.1%	10.3%	10.4%
SALES AND OFFICE	24.7%	25.6%	26.5%	26.9%
FARMING / FISHING / FORESTRY	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
CONSTRUCTION / EXTRACTION / MAINTENANCE	6.2%	6.9%	8.0%	8.3%
TRANSPORTATION AND MATERIAL MOVING	11.3%	13.6%	15.2%	15.2%

